

FREE IN CHRIST

1 Cor 6:12-18

Doctrine of Freedom in Christ is taught throughout Pauline epistles.

Galatians 5:1 Christ made us free. Let's make sure that we stay free and don't get all tied up as we once were in the bonds of slavery to the Jewish laws and ceremonies.

Romans 8:21

Romans 6:14 No longer slave to sin.

God's grace set me free.

Romans 7:6 old Jewish rules and regulations caused you to die, now you are free to serve God with all hearts and minds.

Christian freedom: The law and all its rules and regulations only brought a curse and death to me.

When I received Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour He:

Loosed me – set me free from bondage of sin and death.

Changed my heart and put within me a new nature – one that seeks to know God and please Him.

Freedom in Christ always in relation to freedom from earning salvation by good deeds. Romans 8:1-2

Tendency for Christians -- take principle of *liberty in Christ* out of balance.

Reason to compromise Galatians 5:13

Freedom always has a fence!

The Christians in Corinth-- theological justification for doing as they wished.

Free to do right.

Never leads to disobey God.

1 Corinthians 6:12

All things are lawful unto me I can do anything I want that has not been forbidden by Jesus Christ.

Expedient: profitable, helpful, be of an advantage.

Lenski: *It is rather usual when Christians are released from the fetters of legalism by throwing open to them the beautiful gates of Christian liberty that they tend to turn this liberty into license.*

... not be brought under the power of any.

I won't do it because it will enslave me.

It might subdue me and bring me under its power.

Principle one: Is it profitable for kingdom?

Principle two: Will this bring me under its power?

1 Corinthians 9:27

Keep under: to buffet or give black eye, to subdue. Handle roughly.

1 Corinthians 6:13 *Meats for the belly*, popular saying--food and stomach made for each other.

Go ahead and indulge --it's perfectly acceptable to God.

Corinthians trying to place appetite for food and appetite for sex on same level.

Problem: failing or refusing to see difference.

but God shall destroy both it and them: Both transient; temporary.

Both have no eternal significance.,

Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord;

Don't put meats and stomachs on the same level as sex.

Body – instrument whereby glorify God.

and the Lord for the body. Lord wants to totally fill bodies with His power and presence.

Wiersbe: Sex outside of marriage is like a man robbing a bank: he gets something, but it is not his and he will one day pay for it. Sex within marriage can be like a person putting money into a bank: there is safety, security, and he will collect dividend.

1 Corinthians 6:14 Glorified bodies in Heaven.

Just as Jesus.

At death your relationship with foods will cease.

1 Corinthians 6:15 When receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior become part of body of Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:13

Only one body of Christ. Ephesians 4:4 ; Ephesians 1:22- 23; Rom 12:5

Mac: *We are, in this age, the living spiritual temple in which Christ lives. We are His body, the incarnation of His person in the church.*

...shall I then take the members of Christ, ...

Paul shocked at their ignorance.

To be sexually involved in immorality is grossly inconsistent with who they are in Christ.

God forbid. May it never, never, ever be!

Stott: *for Paul the sexual union is such an intimate union as virtually to make one body out of the two.*

1 Corinthians 6:16 Don't you know ...become one body with her?

One body: regarded as one; closely and intimately united.

Joined: gluing two sections into one.

Couple gets involved in sexual oneness--become totally (not partially) one with each other.

Gromaki: *If a believer dishonors his vows to Christ, then he has committed not only physical fornication, but also spiritual adultery and/or bigamy.*

Genesis 2:24

Purpose in Dating: Oneness of spirit...no physical

Purpose in Engagement: Oneness of Soul (intimate conversations; no physical)

Purpose in marriage: Oneness of Body, Soul, spirit.

When process is violated and the couple gets involved sexually outside the marriage union it always creates major conflicts after the marriage.

Key: Clear conscience.

1 Corinthians 6:17

Barnes: *It is not to be taken literally; but the sense is, that there is a close and intimate union; they are untied in feeling, spirit, intention, disposition.*

Our union with Christ --more intimate, whole, and pure

One spirit:

1 Corinthians 6:18 Flee fornication.

Present tense: Run from it and keep on running

Ie. Joseph. Gen 39.

Mac: *We should not consider it a spiritual challenge to be met but a spiritual trap to be escaped. We should get away as fast as we can.*

... he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

Sin of fornication has immediate and harmful effect on whole body.

Barnes: *It wastes the bodily energies; produces feebleness, weakness, and disease; it impairs the strength, enervates the man, and shortens life.*

Lenski: *Sexual sins bear a vicious character of all their own. They rot the body, fill the mind with rottenness, and rapidly eliminate the sinner from this life*

Proverbs 6:32 *But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul.*

Proverbs 6:33 *A wound and dishonour shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away. (Reproach: shame, disgrace)*

Proverbs 7:26⁶ *For she hath cast down many wounded: yea, many strong men have been slain by her.*

Proverbs 7:27 *Her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death.*

Proverbs 9:18 *But he knoweth not that the dead are there; and that her guests are in the depths of hell.*

SO WHAT?

In Christ we are free.

Free from bondage of sin.

Free to love Him.

Free to serve Jesus.

Free to obey Him within fence of Word of God.

When I step out of the boundaries of His Word I am no longer free.

All things are lawful but not all things are profitable...expedient.

All things are lawful for me but I am not going to be brought under the power of any.

My freedom in Christ is not a license for me to do things that build my carnal nature.

My freedom in Christ does not allow me to be immoral.